

**New Beginnings
(Los Principios Nuevos)**

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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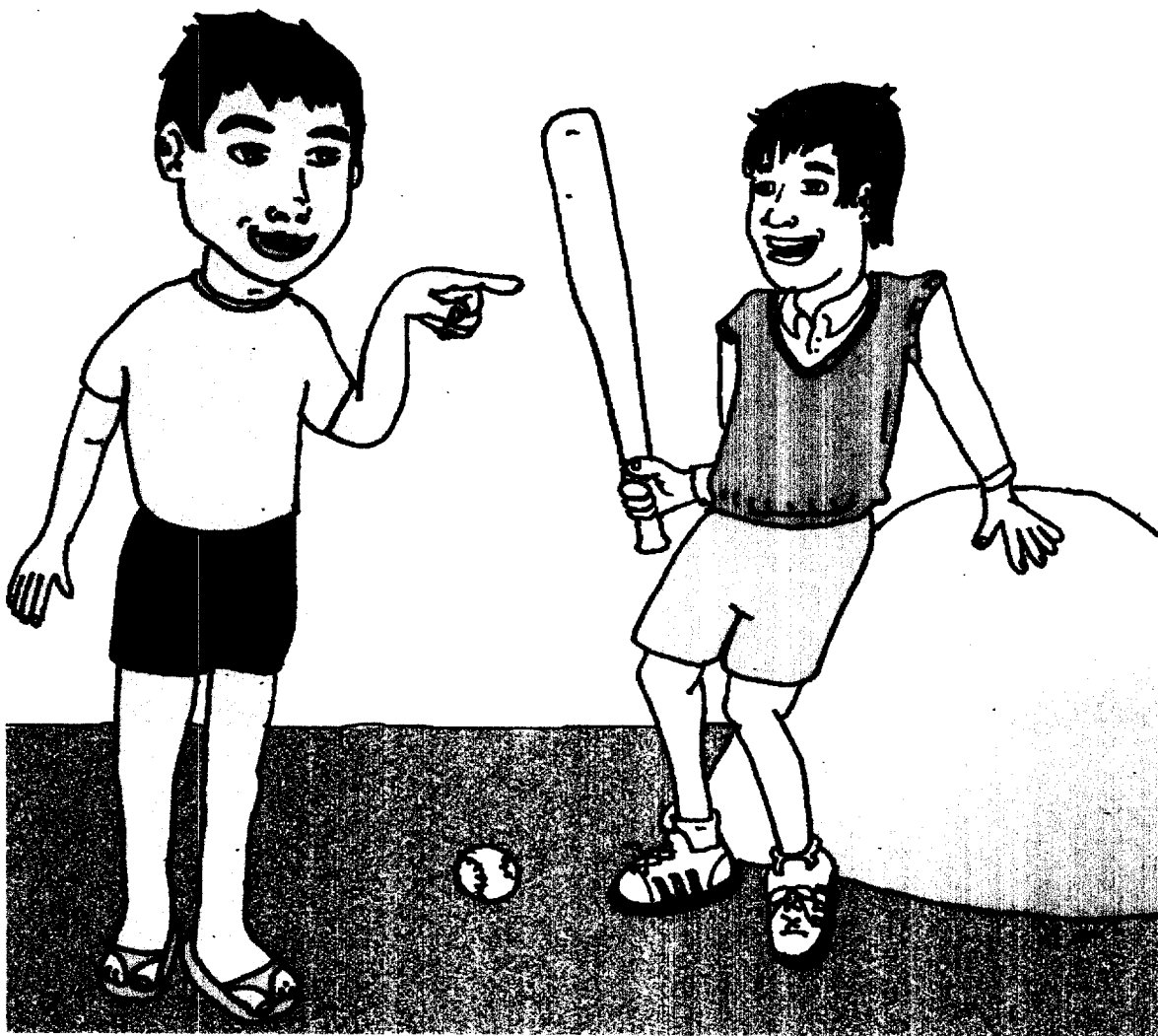
Abstract

This creative project entitled *New Beginnings* is a children's book with Spanish and English text. The book is meant to be read out loud by a teacher or parent or to oneself. It is best suited for children in grades 3-5. The book is not meant to teach Spanish to the reader. It is simply available to both Spanish and English language readers. The illustrations work with the text to tell the story.

The section that follows the book is composed of four activities that go along with the story. The criss-cross puzzle must be completed after reading the story. The letter writing and art activities may be performed before or after reading the story. There is a tape recording of both languages included in the packet, along with the necessary materials for completing the other activities.

New Beginnings

Los Principios Nuevos



Written By: **Erin Lee Miller**

Illustrated By: **Benjamin Miller and Jeremy Koomler**

Acknowledgments

I would like to first of all thank Dr. Nancy Melser and Dr. Karen Steves, my thesis advisors, for all of their wonderful help and support in guiding me through my thesis. Dr. Steves helped me as I wrote the text in Spanish. I know I couldn't have made it without her consistent help and editorial advice. Dr. Melser was always on hand to check over my work and provide me with necessary advice and the encouragement I needed to complete each stage of the thesis process. I also would like to thank my brother Ben Miller and my fiancé Jeremy Koomler for their much appreciated help in developing the illustrations to go along with the text. Ben has spent much of his time perfecting the illustrations that he drew himself after we sat down and decided on the designs. Jeremy as well has spent much of his available time adding color to the drawings through the computer. Without Ben and Jeremy, I definitely would have been lost. Thanks to Dr. Nancy Melser, Dr. Karen Steves, Ben Miller, and Jeremy Koomler once again for giving your time and energy in order to help me out! I can't express in words how much I appreciate all of your help!

Author's Note

New Beginnings is a fictional children's book that I wrote during the summer and fall semesters of my senior year at Ball State University. I wrote this book in part because of my love for the American Southwest and Spanish culture and because of the need for more wholesome children's books that offer good advice to today's youth. I wanted to write a story that involved both Spanish and English text. My interest in the Spanish language and culture stems from the fact that I have chosen a Spanish minor, which involved much study in these areas. I am graduating in May with a degree in elementary education and am consequently aware of the growing Spanish influence on our culture today, including our schools.

My fiancé Jeremy and I once thought about moving to Arizona after our upcoming June wedding. I have visited Arizona before and fell in love with this beautiful state. Therefore, I thought that a story line involving a young boy moving to Arizona would be appropriate. As I wrote the story, I did some research on the city of Tucson, Arizona. I have discovered, just as the main character in the story, that Tucson is a great place to be. I just may join Emilio and the main character out there someday!

On a more serious note, many children of today know exactly what it is like to pack up suddenly and leave a city, a school, and one's friends. This is not an easy thing to do, speaking from experience. Another goal of writing this story was to show that many people go through a moving experience, only to find out that it really isn't that bad after all. Of course it is scary and sad at first, but it all works out in the end, as is the case in *New Beginnings*. This is where friendship can play a key part. Without friends, I don't know how we could live each day with a smile on our faces! I know I couldn't! True friends and family are the one thing that keep us going through tough times and life-changing events. The main character in my story realized in the end that he needed Emilio. Without him, things just were not the same. Emilio's friendship was even more important than baseball, which is of prime importance to many younger boys and adults of today!

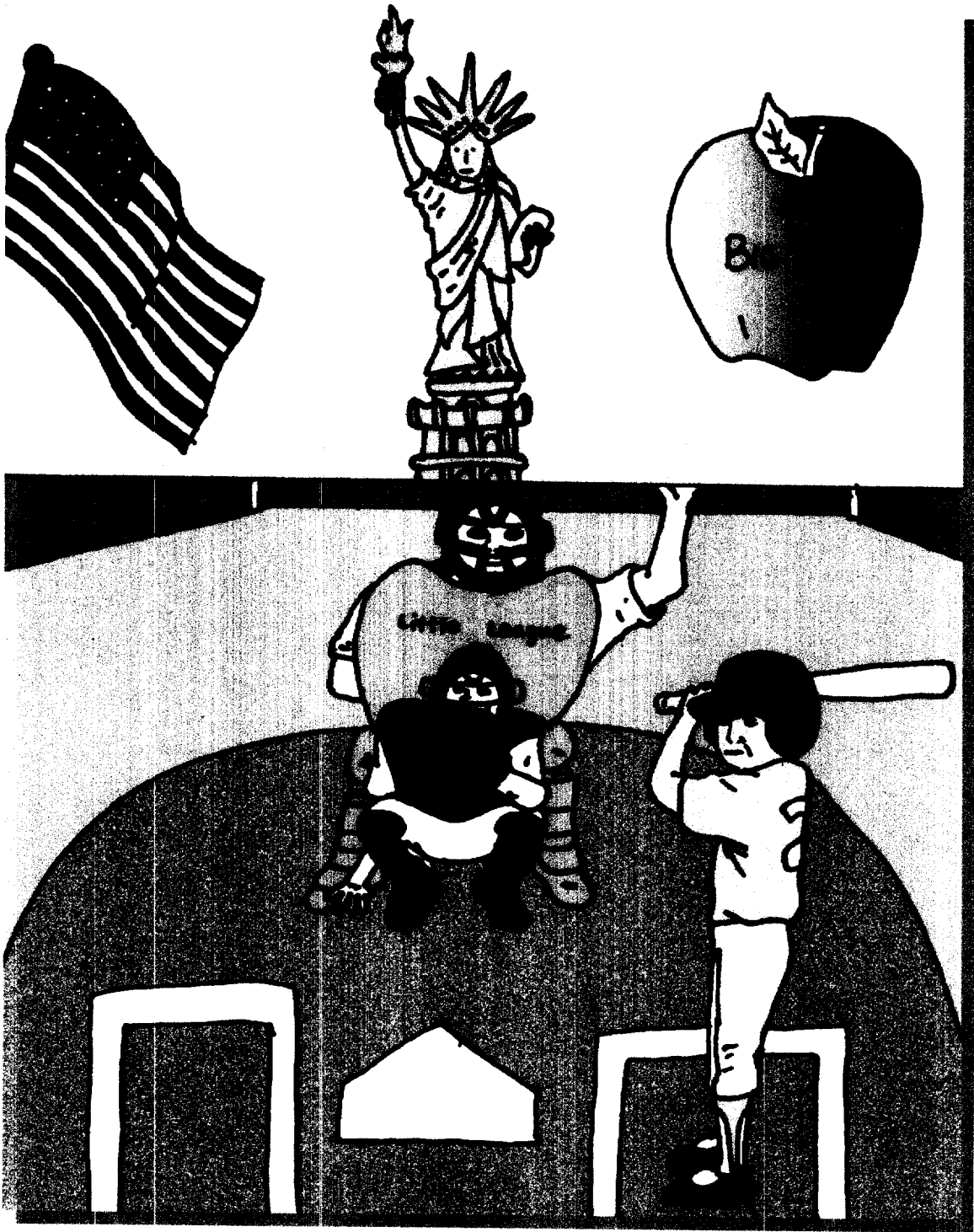
I conclude by saying that this book is to me a feel-good book. I am very proud of how it all turned out. I hope that you as well find it a good read. And be sure to look over the activities after the book. I encourage you to complete a few of them. Who knows, there may even be a sequel to this story some day!

The big news arrived on my tenth birthday. My father's job was transferred to a city in Arizona called Tucson. The move would be very hard for me.

Las grandes noticias llegaron en mi décimo cumpleaños. El trabajo de mi padre fue traslado a una ciudad en Arizona que se llama Tucson. La mudanza sería muy difícil para mí.

I had recently become a member of the Little League baseball team in our neighborhood of New York City, and we were number one in our division. We were going to leave Saturday after the last day of school. The big move was just three weeks away!

Pertenecía a un equipo de beísbol de la Liga Pequeña en nuestra vecindad de Nueva York, y éramos número uno en la división. Íbamos a salir el sábado, después del último día de escuela. ¡La mudanza fuera solamente tres semanas más!



I was not very excited about moving thousands of miles West to a strange and new city. When I blew out the candles of my birthday cake, I made a wish. My wish was that our family would not go to Tucson after all. I wished that something occurred to prevent us from moving.

No estaba muy feliz sobre la mudanza miles de millas al Oeste a una extraña y nueva ciudad. Cuando soplé las velas de mi torta de cumpleaños, hice un deseo. Mi deseo fue que nuestra familia no nos mudáramos a Tucson. Esperé que algo ocurriría para prevenir la mudanza.



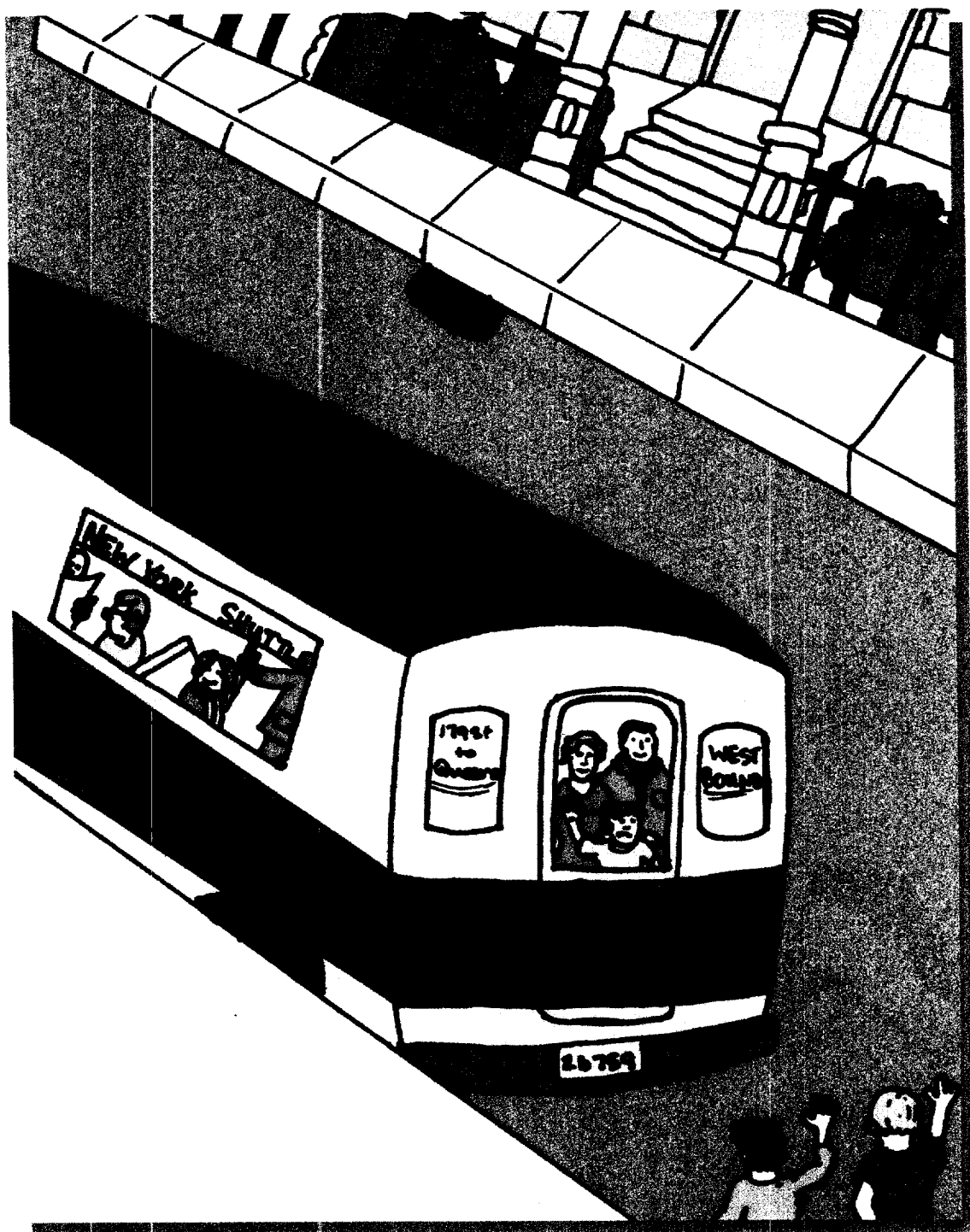
The date was now Friday, June 8. I arrived at school for the last day. We were celebrating the end of the school year when my teacher gave me a surprise cake! There was a cactus decoration on top of the cake!

La fecha ahora era el viernes, ocho de junio. Llegué a la escuela para el último día. Estábamos celebrando la conclusión del año escolar cuando mi maestra me dió un pastel de despedida. ¡Qué sorpresa! ¡Había una decoración de un cactus encima del pastel!



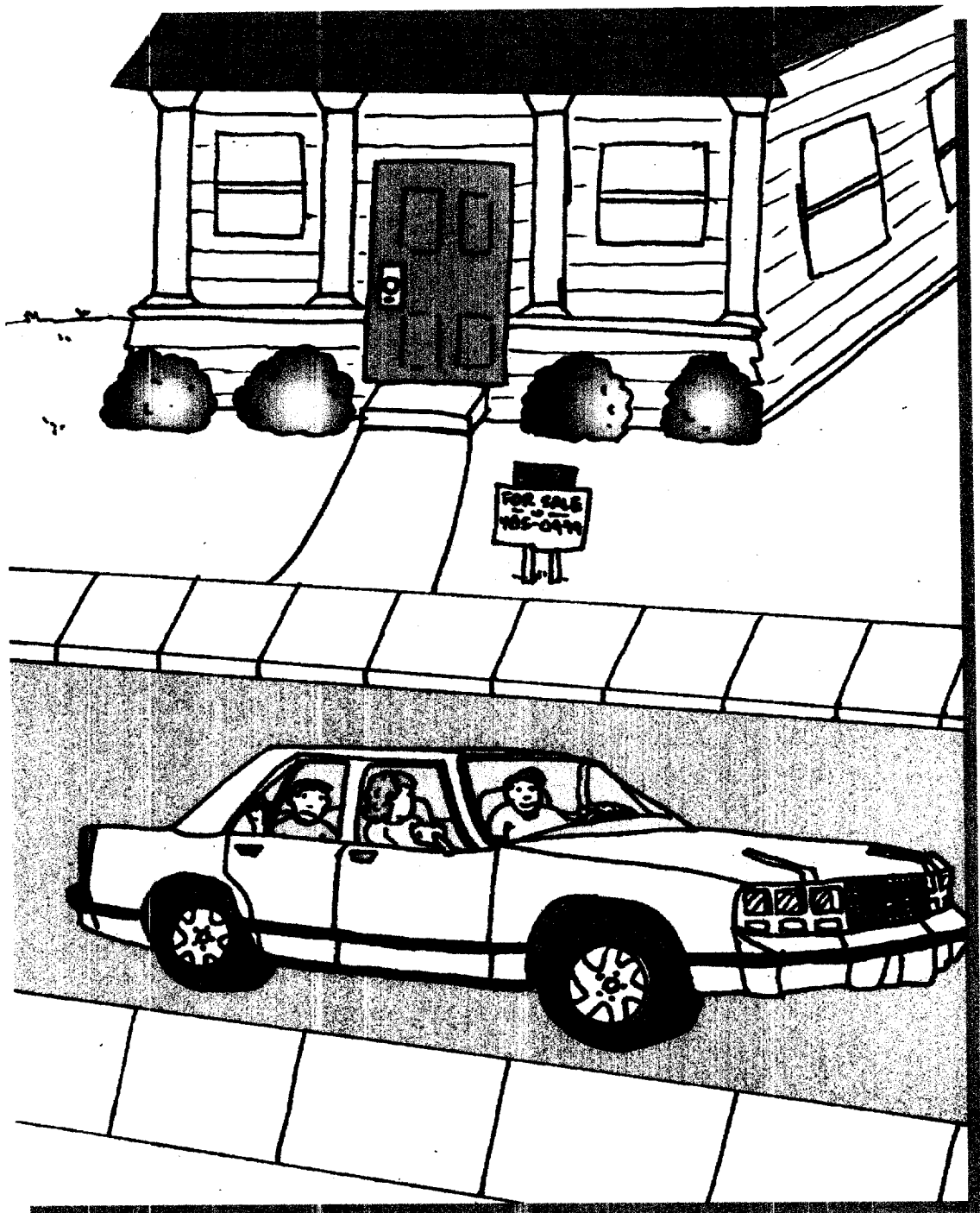
It was a very sad situation for me. It was hard to say goodbye to all of my friends. When we all walked out to the buses to go to our houses, I yelled to everyone to keep in touch. I then waved goodbye when my bus left.

Fue una situación muy triste para mí. Fue difícil decir "¡Adiós!" a todos mis amigos. Cuando nosotros andábamos a los autobuses para ir a nuestras casas, grité a todos saludé. Entonces, los hice adiós con la mano cuando mi autobús salió.



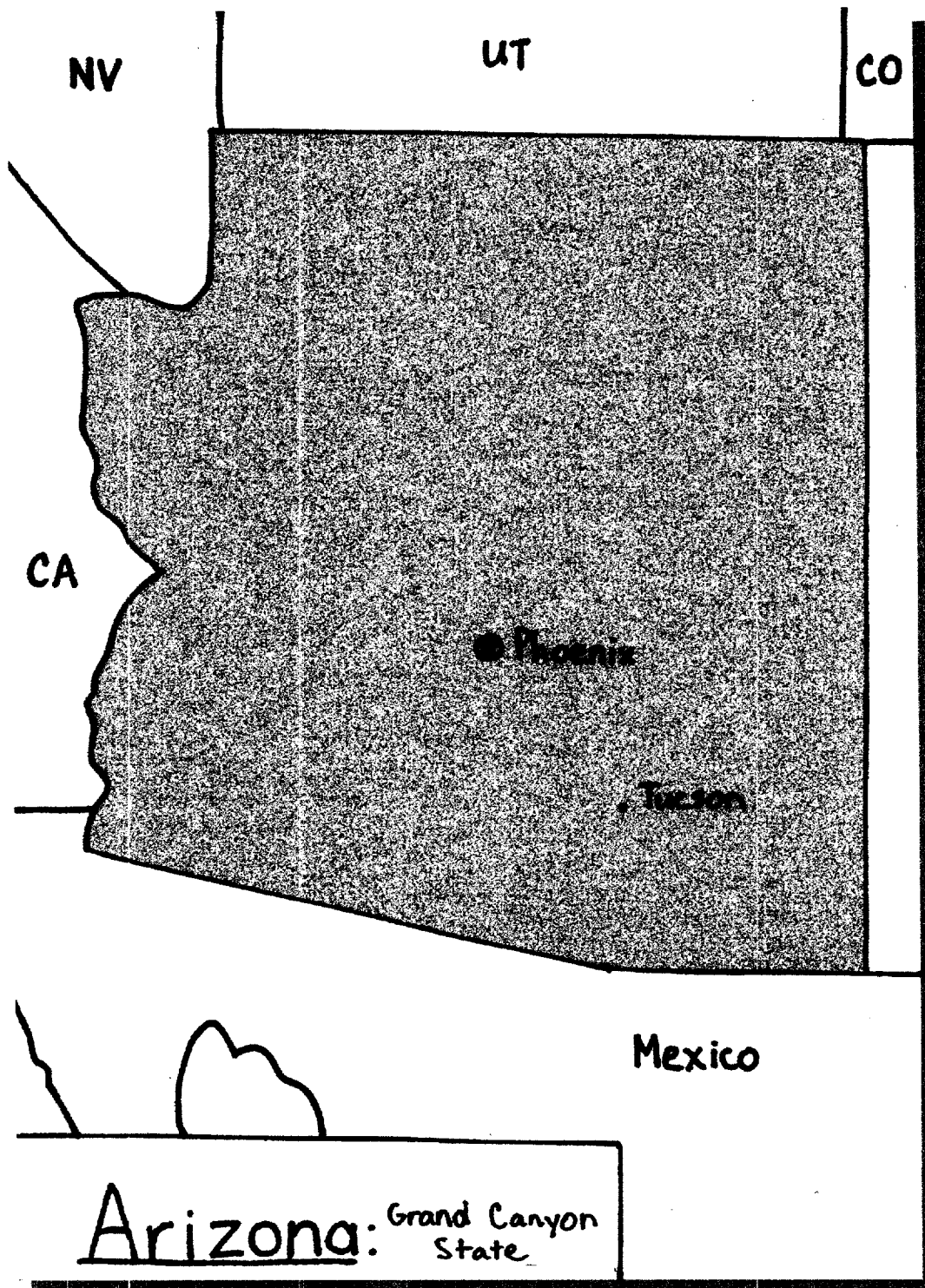
That Friday, we packed and cleaned.
In no time, my alarm clock went off. I
placed my last suitcase in the car and said
goodbye to my house. Then, we left for
Arizona.

*Aquel viernes, empacamos y limpiamos.
En un credo, mi despertador sonó. Puse mi
maleta en el coche y dije "¡Adiós!" a mi casa.
Entonces, salimos para Arizona.*



When I was bored during the long trip, I asked my parents to inform me about Tucson. My parents told Katie, my sister, and me that Tucson is located in the south of Arizona. It is the second largest city of the state. Summers are warm and winters are spring-like. This is much different from New York's frigid winters.

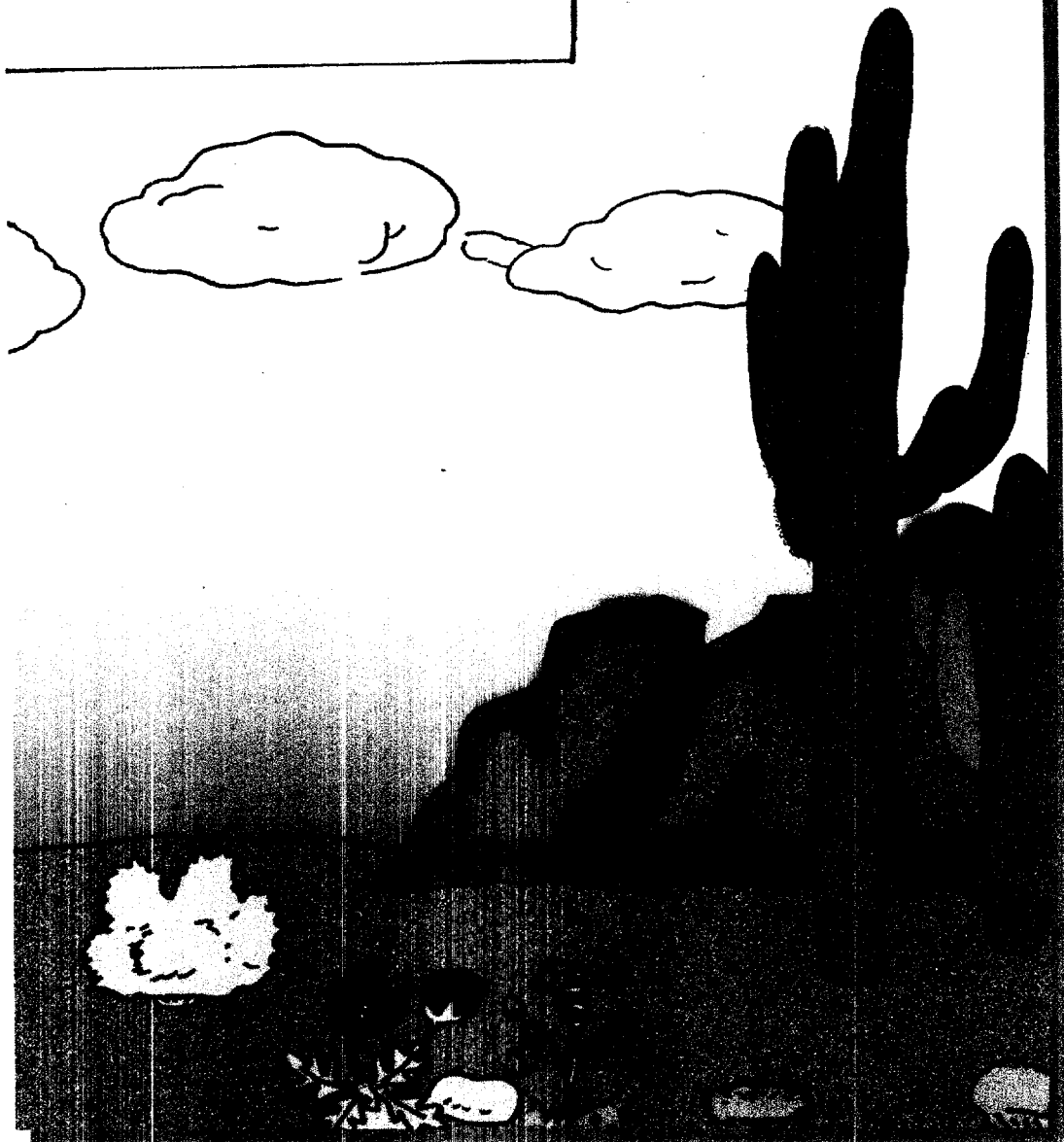
Cuando me aburría durante el viaje, les pedía a mis padres que me informaron sobre Tucson. Mis padres nos dijeron a mi hermana Katie y a mí que Tucson está en el sur de Arizona. Es la segunda ciudad en tamaño en el estado. Los veranos son calientes y los inviernos son como primavera en Nueva York. Este es muy diferente de los inviernos muy fríos de Nueva York.



My mom said that there are many fun things in Tucson. She said that we should spend a day next week at the Tucson Children's Museum. My father said that he wanted to go camping at Catalina State Park. (I thought, how boring!)

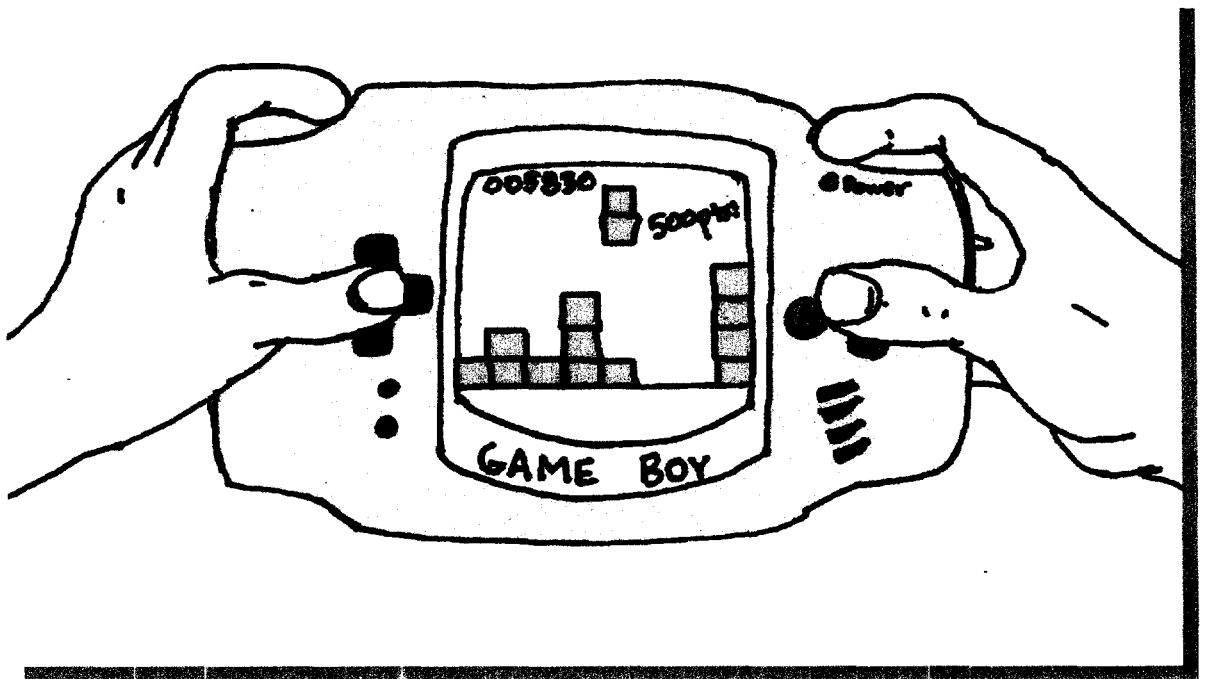
Mi madre dijo que hay muchas cosas para divertirnos en Tucson. Dijo que nosotros debemos pasar un día de la próxima semana en el Museo para Niños en Tucson. Padre dijo que quiso acampar en La Catalina, un parque del estado. (Pensé, ¡Qué aburrido!)

Catalina State
Park - Arizona



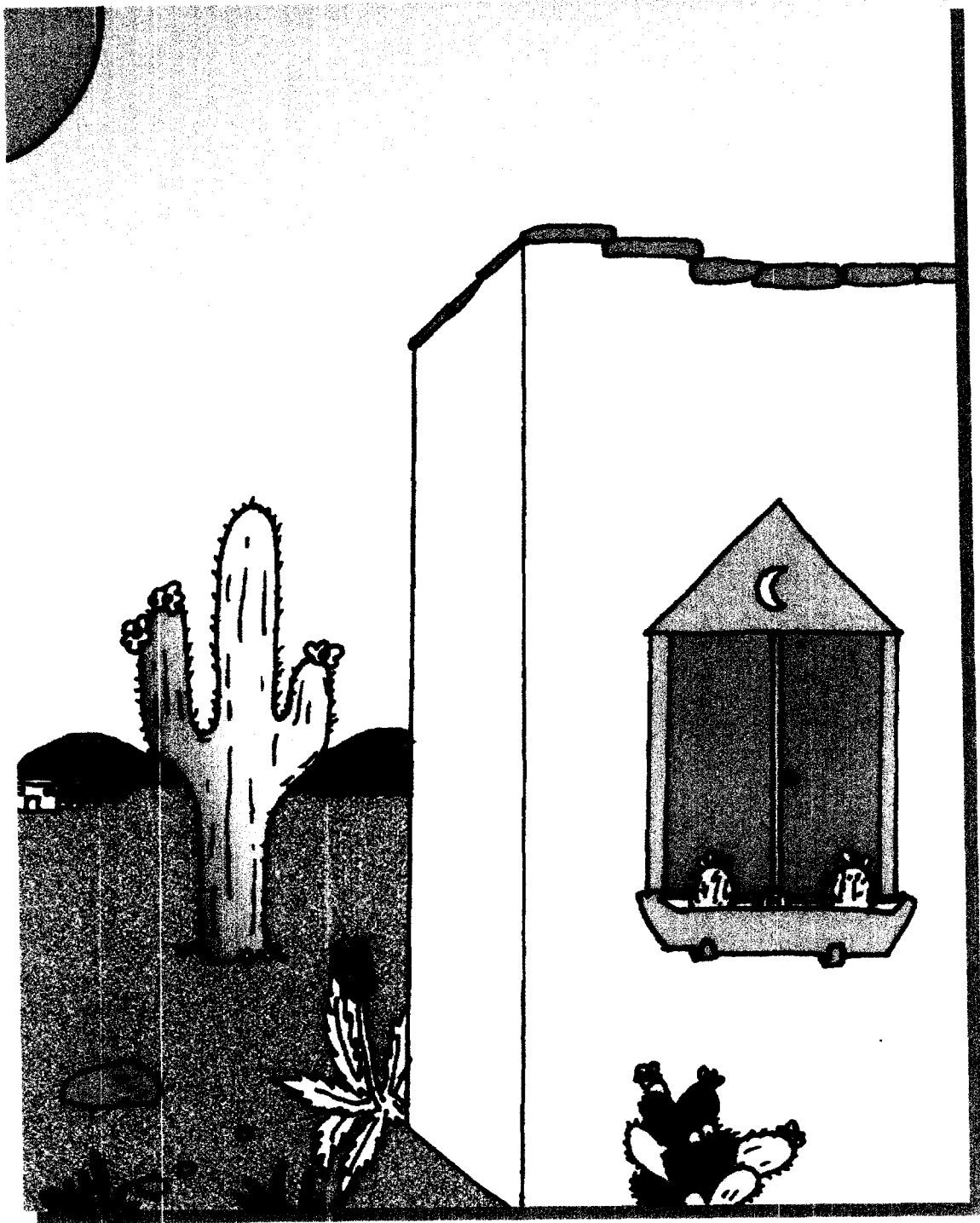
As I played my Game Boy, my father talked about the Spanish influence on our new home, an adobe. When he finished talking, we arrived at our new neighborhood. (I guess my birthday wish never came true.)

Mientras jugaba mi Game Boy, mi papá hablaba sobre la influencia española en nuestra casa nueva, un adobe. Cuando acabó, llegamos a nuestra nueva vecindad. (Parece que mi deseo de cumpleaños nunca llegó.)



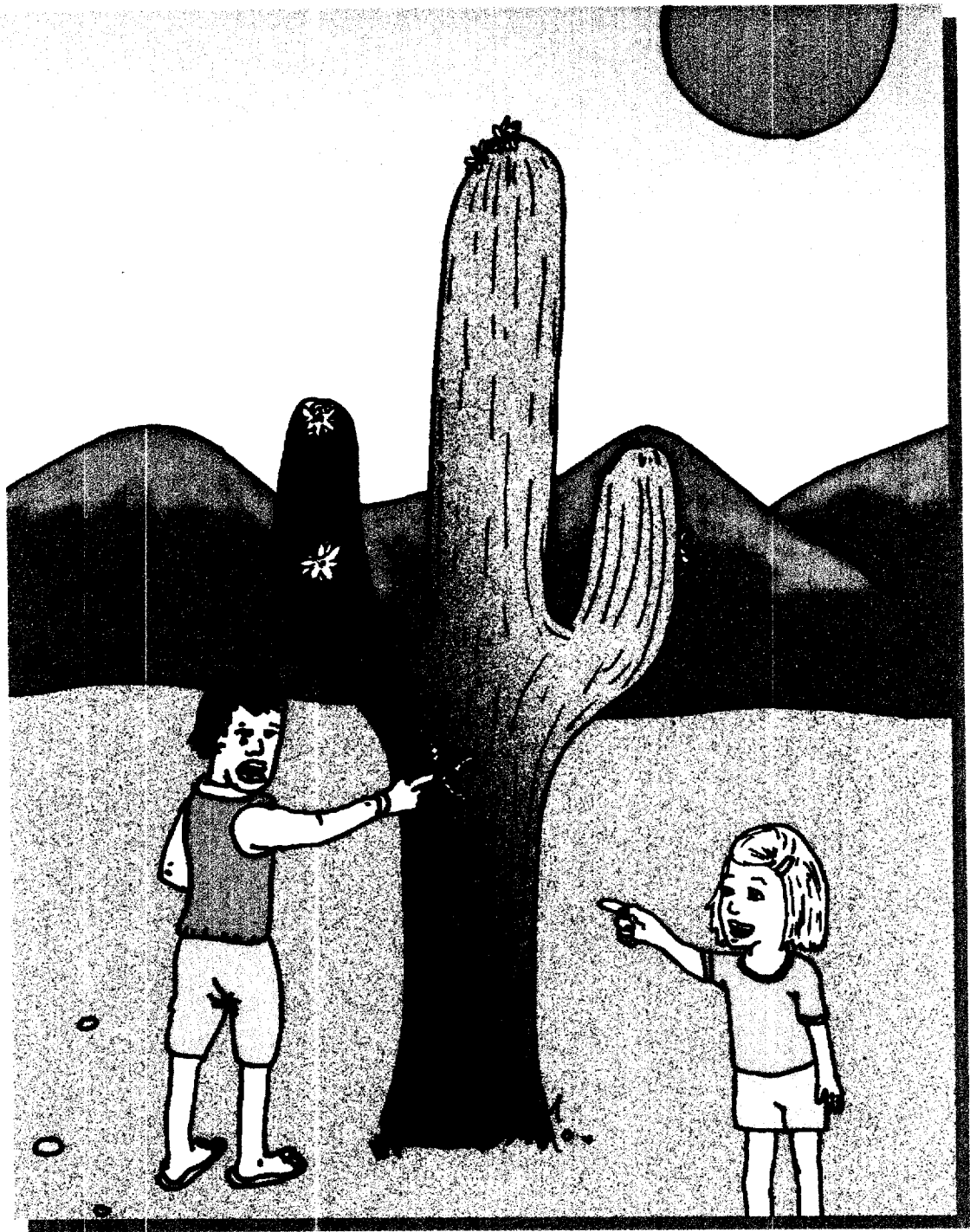
Our addition was called Mesa Verde, which means "Green Table". When we arrived in front of our new house, I was actually surprised at how unique it looked. It was also cool to see cactus in our backyard!

Nuestra vecindad se llama Mesa Verde. Cuando llegamos en frente de nuestra casa nueva, estaba sorprendido por su apariencia muy diferente. Fue muy divertido ver un cactus en nuestro patio.



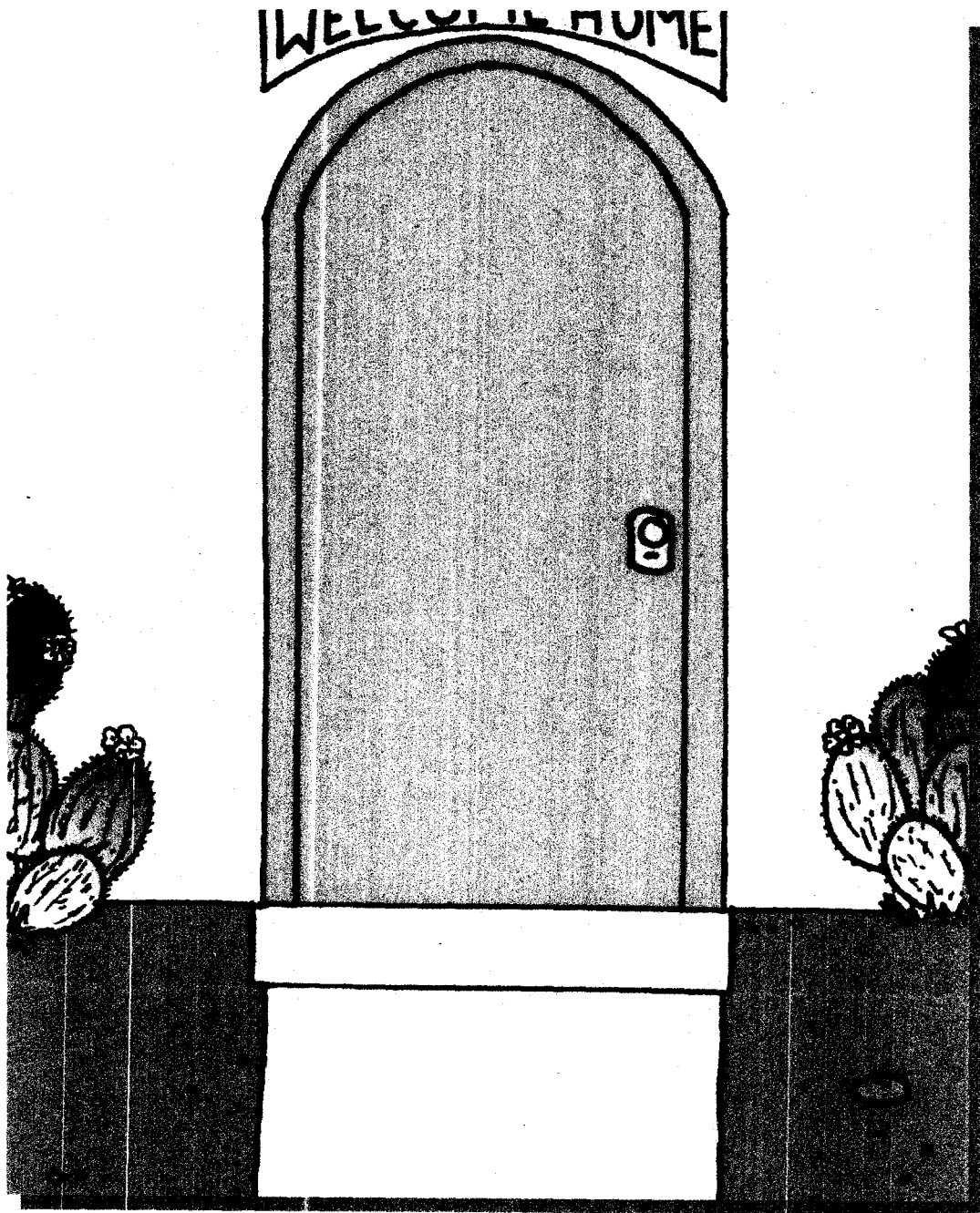
Katie and I left the car and walked over to the cactus. I later learned that the tall cactus is called saguaro, and the cactus with the pretty pink flowers is the beavertail cactus. I remember that I once took the dare from Katie to touch a saguaro. I have never forgotten that pain!

Katie y yo salimos del coche y andamos al cactus alto que se llama saguaro, y el cactus con las bonitas flores rosadas que se llama cola de castor. Recuerdo que una vez yo acepté el reto de Katie que tocara un saguaro. ¡Nunca olvidaré aquel dolor!



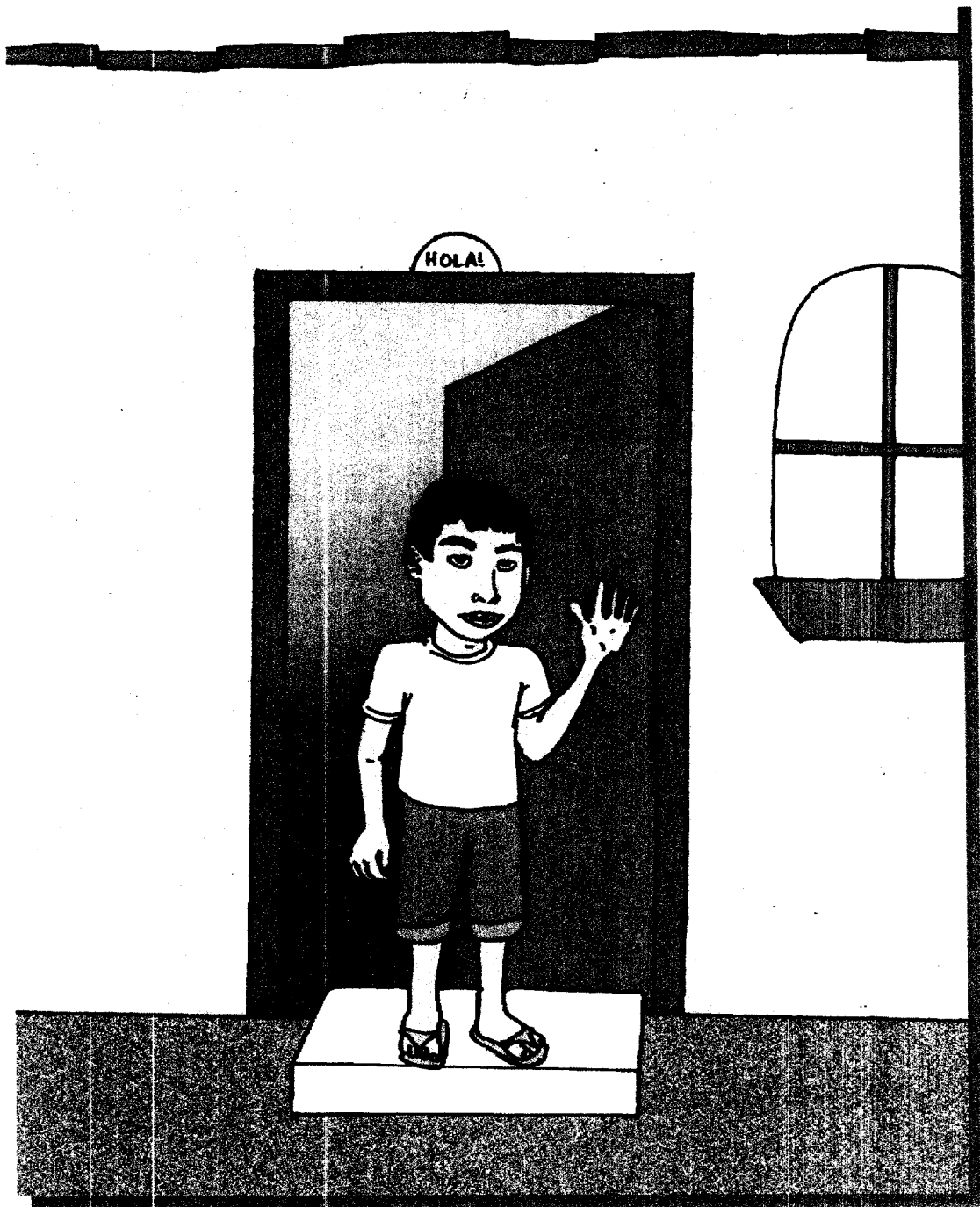
As the summer weeks slowly went by, we began to settle into our new home. Our adobe was very different from our house in New York! But I guess that it was a great home.

Mientras las semanas del verano pasaron muy despacio, nosotros empezamos establecernos en nuestra nueva casa. ¡Nuestro adobe era muy diferente de nuestra casa en Nueva York! Pero supongo que era una buena casa.



It was sometime in late July when I went over and said hi to Emilio, the boy that lived next door. Emilio and I were the same age. We started hanging out almost everyday. We liked to go on hikes together and play baseball in the open desert. I was happy when I was with Emilio!

Fue algún día tarde en julio cuando fui a la casa de Emilio y le dije "¡Hola!". Emilio era el muchacho que vivía en la casa vecina. Emilio y yo teníamos la misma edad. Nosotros empezamos a jugar casi todos los días. Nos gusta ir de excursión juntos y jugábamos el béisbol en el desierto extenso. ¡Estaba feliz cuando pasaba tiempo con Emilio!



Emilio's parents spoke very little English. He spoke both Spanish and English! It was very impressive. Emilio enjoyed teaching me Spanish phrases such as "Hasta la vista, baby!"

Los padres de Emilio hablaban poco inglés. ¡Emilio hablaba español e inglés! Era muy impresionante. Emilio disfrutaba enseñándome frases en español como "¡Hasta la vista, baby!"



It seemed like just yesterday when I had first met Emilio. But, the date was now August 20, our very first day of school. Emilio and I did not get the same teacher, but our classrooms were right next to each other. We were both nervous and excited as we got on the bus together and headed for the elementary school, La Gran Luna.

Parece que fue solamente ayer cuando encontré a Emilio por la primera vez. Pero, la fecha fue ahora el 20 de agosto, nuestro primer día de la escuela. Emilio y yo no recibimos la misma maestra, pero mi sala de clase estaba al lado de la sala de clase de Emilio. Nosotros estuvimos nerviosos y emocionantes mientras embarcamos en el autobús juntos y íbamos para la escuela primaria, La Gran Luna.

